

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT LOWELL
CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

**SHIFTING GEARS PROJECT
HOLYOKE**

**INFORMANT: ELISE AIROLDI
INTERVIEWER: CHRIS HOWARD BAILEY
DATE: APRIL 15, 1988**

**B = CHRIS HOWARD BAILEY
A = ELISE AIROLDI**

SG-HO-T301

B: We're talking with Mrs. Elise Airol di at [Boudry-Boucher], Cabot Street, Holyoke, for the Shifting Gears Project at Heritage State Park. [tests microphone and tape player]

A: My-, the family of my mother, they were almost over here. The [unclear]. We came in in here and we stay on. My cousin. Until we find a place. We find a place on Cabot Street first. Ah so [unclear]

B: Okay. Let's, let's, let's go back a little. Um, whereabouts in, in ah Canada were you?

A: In ah St. Cloud.

B: St. Cloud. Uh huh. (A: St. Cloud) And, and your m-, father had a a farm?

A: Yeah, my father have a farm.

B: And your mother helped work it?

A: Oh yeah, we all w-working. We [unclear]

B: All the children?

A: We were seven daughter and four boy. (B: Um hm) And eh [unclear]

B: They all had different chores?

A: Yeah. (B: Uh huh) Oh, yeah we [unclear] everywhere. And my father buying lot the farm. Then we could go to school. The first farm we were too far from school. We didn't have

no school. In fact there we gone, we went to school for about two year. After we have to stay home to help to the potatoes, for the hay, for [unclear] [chuckles]

B: And then there was eh, eh, y-, tough times in Canada. You, you couldn't make a living from the farm, your father?

A: After, when my father [unclear] we, yes, he, my father, he have two farm. But after was married we stay two year on the farm. (B: Um hm) But from there, there he got a, have no way. And we could [unclear] Before we got the hay, we f-, sell one cow and we pay for the farm. (B: Um hm, um hm) But we have no hay we couldn't keep the cow. (B: Um hm) No [unclear] Lots of people have to go out because [unclear] (B: Yeah, yeah)

B: Why didn't you have any hay?

A: There, it was too dry and you have no rain and [unclear] (B: Uh huh) Everyone, [chuckles] everyone, they [unclear]

B: You had, you had a drought?

A: Yeah. Yeah

B: So you met your husband (A: Yeah) in Canada?

A: Canada.

B: How did you meet him?

A: Uh, my, my older, my sister older than me (B: Uh huh) married his brother.

B: Married his brother. Uh huh.

A: And we were three daughter married three brother.

B: Uh huh. Three daughters married to three brothers?

A: Three brother. Yeah.

B: How about that!

A: Yeah, the oldest one married one. And after my, [chuckles] the other one, and my other sister met her husband at my wedding and [unclear] (B: Ohh!) married too.

B: W-, w-, was your husband the son of farmers? (A: Yeah) Uh huh. Nearby? They lived nearby?

A: He were [unclear] His father die, he was just forty years old and he was seventeen. He

was the oldest of the, (B: Um hm) the boy. (B: Um hm, um hm) He didn't go the war because he have to stay with his mother to run the farm. (B: Um hm; very good)

B: So when you had the drought, then, you decided to leave Canada. Your father decided to leave Canada when you had the drought?

A: My, my, my husband. (B: Oh, your husband) My father stay over there. (B: Oh, so your husbnd) Just me and my husband. His brother came before. (B: Um hm) And after we decide to come. Us too.

B: Um hm. How old were you then?

A: Twenty. [sighs] I married at tw-, nineteen. I was twenty-two when we came in over here. We got two children when we came in over here.

B: And you (A: Two boy) came to Cabot Street? (A: Yeah) Two boys?

A: We came in on Cabot Street. (B: Um hm) We are having me and George. And we stay there about two year, three year, I think. And we move on Park, 173 Park Street. We got five room over there.

B: And what did your husband, where did he work?

A: He work, working at Chemical Paper. (B: Um hm) Chemical Paper. And [unclear]

B: What did he do?

A: He's working on the belt. [pause: 5 sec.] The shipping. Shipping place. (B: Spinning?) Yeah he was [unclear] (B: Spinning) Shipping the, the things. (B: Shipping, um hm) Yeah. (B: Um hm)

B: And what did you, what did you, you worked at home at that time? You took care of the children?

A: Me, I stay home work, work with the children. [loud buzzing noise]

B: So when you lived on Cabot Street in the five rooms, were you living with any other family?

A: No. We live a-, alone.

B: But your cousin, or your (A: No) husband's cousin [unclear]

A: It was, was the our place now. (B: Uh huh, uh huh) Yeah. Was Mr. [unclear] (B: Uh huh) And we, (B: Uh huh) I think we just pay four dollar a week.

B: Four dollars a week? (A: Yeah) And when wa-, this was 1920, (A: what) 1922?

A: 1924. (B: 1924) Because we come in in here in 1923. (B: Ah huh) This was about three four year after. (B: I see) Yeah.

B: So, so when you first came you lived with your cousin?

A: We, we just [unclear] No. My husband got the tenement on, on Cabot Street. (B: Uh huh) My c-, my husband coming two months before me. (B: Ah, I see, uh huh) And I came in after, after the ch-.

B: With the children. Did you come on the train?

A: Yeah, I come in on the train. (B: Um hm) And we stop under the [warbler] there. (B: Um hm) We pay eight dollar and we, we [chuckles] come in. (B: Um hm)

B: What do you remember seeing when you got off the train? Here in Holyoke? (A: Who?) What do you remember seeing?

A: The train, the [unclear] [chuckles] The station. [pause: 5 sec.] My come in, my husband come in get me at the train. And tha-, and that time he got to walk. He was walking to the (B: Um hm) Chemical. [pause: 5 sec.] And eh when the kids start to go to school, they go to the Precious Blood School. [pause: 5 sec.] And uh, around 1929 my husband got sick. He got [appendicite]. (B: Um hm; appendicitis?) Was sick. (B: Um hm) [And see ninety] and die. (B: Umm) I was very disgusting because I didn't know what to do. I never walked nowhere. (B: Um hm) Stay home and work you know. But uh we got the neighbor who g-, whose sister, he was very good for me. He went to see for me to have mother's aid. (B: Um hm) I g-, we got eighteen dollar a month I think.

B: Mother's Aid?

A: Yeah. Mother's Aid. (B: Um hm) And I was sewing home for, for the people. (B: Um hm) And I go work for the convent, for the sister. (B: Um hm) And uh when I was t-, too disgust, I went go the church um (B: Uh huh) with the church [oil] and pray. (B: Um hm) The [bird] was good for us because we went, we went along. (B: Um hm)

B: When um, when your husband died, how many children did you have then?

A: Six. (B: six children?) Six. (B: Ah huh) The oldest was eight years old, and the youngest was not quite one years old. (B: Um hm) He died the sixteen October and she got her year on the thirty-first of October.

B: When you um [unclear] Who did the jobs in your house at that time? Before, (A: What?) before your husband died, he would go out to work, right, you would, what, [motor roars in background] did he do any jobs in the house? Your husband?

A: He did what?

B: Did he do any jobs in the house? Did he wash the dishes or [unclear]

A: Oh, no. Was tired and uh (B: Um hm) work at the mill. (B: Um hm)

B: So you would do all the cooking?

A: Oh yeah, the cooking and the washing. And I got two my brother they stay, brother-in-law. They stay with us until they married. (B: Uh huh)

B: So you had two boarders. (A: Two [brother]) They're boarders. (A: Yeah) Uh huh. Did they contribute anything to, to, for their keep?

A: Yeah. I think they, I think, if I remember right they go-, they gave us five dollar a week.

B: And, and you gave them their meals and (--)

A: Yeah. Their meal and washing and uh (--)

B: You did their washing?

A: [unclear]. (B: Ahh) It was for nothing but that time (--)

B: So you had six children, (A: Yeah) two boarders (A: Yeah) and a husband. (A: Yeah) All to take care of. (A: Yeah, yeah) Well, we're talking about 1924 now, right?

A: Oh, yeah it was uh [unclear]. No, this is after my husband die. My husband die on 1929. (B: 1929) 1929.

B: Then you took in the boarders? (A: Yeah, yeah) Uh huh, I see. So this was during the Depression, then? (A: Yeah) And, and what do you remember about life then? What sort of things did you to to feed and clothe all those six children? Was it [unclear]

A: Oh I worked for, for the sister. Go wash the floor and [had been] to uh do the wash.

B: Um hm. Did they pay you anything?

A: Oh yeah. (B: Um hm, um hm) It was [that most on time] but it was better, any dollar count. (B: Yeah, right) I remember takes some sewing, ah old coat, and I fix it, wash it, press it, cut it and sew it for one dollar. (B: Hmm)

B: So you would take in sewing and, and make [unclear]

A: Sewing for, yeah. [both talk] (To help me to work)

B: Any, for anybody who wanted (A: Yeah) sewing, you would (A: Yeah) help them. (A: Yeah) Uh huh. For one dollar, that's [unclear] [laughs] (A: Yeah) When did you do it? I mean with six children, when could you do the sewing?

A: Oh at night.

B: When they were in bed?

A: Yeah. One night, one night was uh two o'clock in the morning, and I was sewing, and I want finish this coat.

B: You wanted what?

A: I want to finish the coat.

B: You wanted to finish the coat.

A: Uh huh. And my sewing machine stop and I couldn't get it back. I didn't know what's the matter. I decided to leave it there. But the next morning I took my machine and nothing was wrong. This was, I test myself because my husband come in and stop the, the car. [interviewer laughs] The g-, the machine, "Go to bed."

B: To tell you to rest. Um hm, um hm. At that time how did the church help you when your husband died? That was obviously [unclear]

A: Who?

B: The church. How did they help you when your husband died?

A: [pause: 5 sec.] They uh, they help me to give me some clothes sometimes for the kids. And more because I go there and pray for, for when my youngest son make his First Communion. The priest give him his shoes. (B: Hm)

B: How long did you support your family like this?

A: Until eh, on eh, I don't know. When the kids start to work. When they start to help me. To work. But after the war come, the three boys went to the war. I see there what, two daughter was working. And when they came back, they were, they were engaged when they leave for the, for the war. But after the war finished they all married.

B: Okay. Let's go back. You said after the war all your children married. Um, but before we go on to that, uh, you said the children, obviously you were all alone and you helped support your children. You had some money from the state. Ahh, you, you did a little work for the convent. You took in sewing. And then you said as soon as the children were old enough they helped. (A: Yeah) What kind of jobs did they do to help out? [pause: 5 sec.] Do you remember?

A: [chuckles] I forget they where they were working. (B: Yeah) I know was in Springdale.

B: Was it a, did they have a paper route or anything like that?

A: Oh after they married?

B: No, before they married. When they were at home.

A: [pause: 5 sec.] I know it's [unclear] I think it was in kitchen. And my daughter was working the same place. (B: Uh huh)

B: Oh, so they went, so they didn't work while they were children. They didn't do any jobs [unclear]

A: Yeah, they carries the paper. (B: They) Oh yeah, they carries the paper.

B: Oh, they took, [both talk] they had a paper route. Uh huh.

A: The boy and the girl, too. They did. (B: Oh, uh huh) Carries the paper. (B: Uh huh; good)

B: How old were they when they went to, to a sort of proper job? How old were they when they left school?

A: [unclear] for the, for the high school. (B: Um hm, um hm) They, they were the first to go the high school. (B: Um hm)

B: They went to Precious Blood School. And then they graduated from school. (A: The school) Were they fourteen, fifteen? Do you remember?

A: I th-, I think they were about fifteen, fourteen, fifteen. (B: Um hm)

B: And, and did they, where, where did they work, do you remember? Did they work in Holyoke?

A: Oh it was in Holyoke. It was in Holyoke.

B: Was it in paper mills or textile mills, or [unclear]

A: No, they didn't work where my husband was working. (B: No) So I didn't s-, in the Springdale, (B: Um hm) they were working. And uh George was working the, [pause: 5 sec.] with the, I remember there the big, the big eh, big drum. (B: Um hm) He have to took some glasses that [unclear] (B: Um hm)

B: They had to put some glasses on to work on, (A: Yeah) the (A: because) factory that

worked on drums?

A: Yeah with the [unclear] they were so-, solder?

B: Soldering. (A: Yeah) Uh huh. (A: Yeah) This was your son?

A: Yeah. My, my second son.

B: Your second son.

A: This was George. (B: Um hm)

B: What did your first son do? (A: Hunh?) What did your first son do? Your first son.

A: My first son. He's the one was working in Springdale. [both talk]

B: But you can't remember what it was. Uh huh.

A: I can't remember. (B: Uh huh) What place. (B: Uh huh)

B: And then, next, was a daughter next? (A: The, the daughter) What was her name? (A: Yes) Rosanna.

B: Rosanna.

A: She worked in Springdale, too. The same place [by me].

B: Uh huh. Did, did your son get her the job?

A: I think so, yeah. (B: Uh huh) Yeah. (B: Uh huh)

B: And then you had another son?

A: After I got another girl. (B: Another girl?) Lillian. (B: Lillian?) Yeah. I think she was working the same place too.

B: Uh huh. And then you had one more.

A

A: Two more. (B: Two more) Roger. (B: Roger) I don't remember where he was working. I know he, he was just sixteen and he wanted to go in the Navy. (B: Uh huh) And he tried to enlist but they didn't take him. But when he get seventeen he, he get that. (B: Um hm) And enlist right away and he went to the Navy. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: And then you had a girl.

A: Yeah. The girl. The nun.

B: And she became a nun.

A: She coming the nun. Estelle.

B: Estelle.

A: She left eh, she left for the convent in July, at the end of July. (B: wh--) That's why they empty the house. [chuckles]

B: Which year, which year was this? When was this?

A: In ah July.

B: July when?

A: I think the twenty-fourth. (B: Um hm) July. She leave [from] Canada. To make a nun.

B: Uh huh. Now which year?

A: [Where] she is now?

B: Which year? Which year?

A: Was always, was always the same year. Was after the war (B: Oh after the war) [both talk] it was forty-five, forty-six huh. (B: I see, I see)

B: And then you had the empty house. Um [unclear]

A: Sh-, she was just seventeen when she left.

B: Seventeen when she left. It, w-, was it important to you that the children go to Precious Blood parish school?

A: They all going the parish school.

B: [both talk] Why did you want them to go to the s-, that, that school particularly?

A: Huh?

B: Why did you want them to go to that school?

A: Because it was Catholic and uh we were Catholic and [unclear] (B: Um hm; um hm) Go there and [read] their First Communion and their Confirmation, and they get married at the s-, same church.

B: Precious Blood Church?

A: Precious Blood Church. Yeah.

B: So you have a lot of attachments to that church?

A: Oh yeah. (B: Uh huh) When afterwards we do there. (B: Uh huh) Most ev-, every day I take the children and go pr-, pray because I didn't know what to do.

B: When your husband died? (A: Yeah) Uh huh. Was it, was Father [Crio] there? (A: Who?) [Crio], was he there? Father [Crio].

A: Was Father Fontaine.

B: Fontaine then. (A: Fontaine) Um hm. And did he help you? Did he talk with you?

A: Yeah, he talked to the children and he talked to me, too. (B: right) And he take my daughter. She was just five years old when she took it from school to, to help me. (B: Um hm) They didn't want to take about five year old, six. And she was just four years old; she going to be five in October, and they took it from the school to help me.

B: They took her, they took her in the convent.

A: They took her from school for, for the school.

B: Th--th--they took her to go to school. [both talk] Earlier than sh-, (A: Yeah) earlier than (A: Yeah) she would normally (A: Yeah) have gone. (A: Yeah) I see. I see. That's good. And then the war came along and your two oldest boys went to, to [unclear] (A: the three boy) [both talk] Three of the boys went to [unclear]

A: Ro-, Roger when he was just sixteen, [Amy] went in the Army, (B: Um hm) and George, in the Army, too. (B: Um hm)

B: What did you work at when, during the war?

A: I helped to sew for the Red Cross at the Skinner Coffee House.

B: At the Skinner Coffee House?

A: And after, after I find a job at the Providence Hospital. (B: Uh huh) I work twenty year for the Providence Hospital.

B: Ah hah. Let's go, let's, let's talk about Skinner Coffee House a minute. Um, what do you remember about that place? What [unclear]

A: We were working, we were put, make costume. (B: Um hm; costumes?) Wine costume.

(B: Wine costumes?) Wine costume. That's [curved] and uh, the [coat]. (B: Wine colored) Wine color. (B: Costumes; For, for what? For the Red Cross?) For the Red Cross. (B: Uh huh) Yeah. To wear. (B: Uh huh; I see; and uh [unclear])

A: And I go help to the Providence Hospital [ourselves] to work for nothing. To help them. (B: At the Providence Hospital?) At Providence. (B: All right) And after that I got the job there.

B: Okay. I'd like to talk about that in a minute. I'd like to talk a little more about Skinner Coffee House because I wanted to find out something about that. Um, do you remember when they put on plays at the Skinner Coffee House? Did you ever go see any of the plays at the Skinner [unclear]

A: Yes, my, my children went on the play. (B: They did?) And we went on play at uh Precious Blood, too. We got play, the sister make play. (B: Um hm) Couple times I was in there too and my children were there too. (B: Uh huh) On the play. (B: Uh huh)

B: Do you remember the names of the plays? Any plays? [pause: 3 sec.] Were they musicals? Did they have music?

A: They got music, too. (B: Um hm) Was uh Mr. [unclear] who made the play. (B: Um hm) And his sister. (B: Um hm, um hm, I see)

B: So, were you paid for your work making the costumes for the Red Cross? (A: What, what?) Did they pay you? (A: No) No [unclear] (A: No) So that was volunteer. [both talk] During the war. (A: Volunteer, yeah, yeah) That was volunteer. How did you survive financially? You were still bringing up three children. How did you manage? (A: Six it was) But during the war, three of them went to war. (A: Oh yeah) So during the war how did you manage to support yourself?

A: I was working in [even there].

B: Oh. Do-, sewing. (A: In the house) Sewing. Sewing. (A: In the house) Oh, did you go and do housework at other people's house? (A: Yeah) Oh you did. (A: Yeah) And that's how you, you, what, (A: Yeah) eh wa-, was that other people up the hill or [unclear] Where did you do the housework?

A: [unclear] on Pine Street. (B: Uh huh) I was working there. (B: Uh huh; that's good) Was a Doctor [Sharpif]. (B: Um hm, um hm, um hm) (B: Was he French Canadian?) We were French.

B: We were French, yeah, yeah, yeah. Huh. And then you came and you volunteered at Providence Hospital? (A: Yeah, hospital, yeah) Uh, was that during the war or after the war? (A: It's during the war) During the war. (A: During the war) Uh huh. What, volunteered to do what? What did you volunteer as?

A: In the kitchen.

B: In the kitchen. (A: kitchen) Uh huh, Uh huh. And then they offered you a job you say?

A: After that I got the job there in the kitchen.

B: Uh huh. (A: Yeah) And what, were you making the food, or cleaning or (--)

A: Yeah. Cooking (B: coo [unclear]) the meat and uh, (B: Um hm) make the soup and uh [unclear] (B: Um hm)

B: So you worked there for twenty years.

A: Yeah. (B: Uh huh) The sister was there, too. And another, another woman. We were three women.

B: The sister was cleaning, uh cooking too?

A: Cooking, yeah. (B: Um hm, um hm) Made the vegetable, make everything. (B: Uh huh, uh huh)

B: How did you get that volunteer work? Through the church? (A: Yes) They helped you. (A: Yeah) Yeah. (A: Yeah) And you stayed there twenty years? (A: Yeah) So you saw your children through [unclear] You raised them while you were working (A: Yeah) at the hospital; (A: Yeah) and taking in boarders; and sewing.

A: Did the boarder when my husband was alive. (B: Hm, I see)

B: So you didn't (A: No) take any boarders (A: No) af-, during the war. (A: No, no) They left after a while. (A: No) Okay. S-, so you never really were out of the house. You never were at work out of the house while the children were at home. You took care of the children all of [both talk] the time. (A: The children, oh yeah) Um hm. The jobs that you did you fitted in around the children. (A: Yeah) Is that it? Uh huh. So you, you stayed at home and took care of the children.

A: Oh yeah. When my husband was alive I stay home, the children. And when they, they, until they was old enough, I think they were about fourteen, fifteen when they start to work, find some work. (B: Um hm, Um hm) Now start to work at the hospital.

B: And you cooked [unclear]

A: And my, the, my oldest daughter stay here until her first baby. She stay with me.

B: Oh, so she, (A: Yeah) when she was married she lived with you.

A: She married, she lived with me.

B: How did she meet her husband?

A: With the, with my son in the, in the war. They coming from the, the war, and they walk, they walk very [up]. Long time. I don't know how many miles but you come in and be some with, with, with him. And they, they mee-, meet him there. They stay home all the night because they were too tired. And he meet, she meet [her] there, but I know the family before.
(B: Um hm, um hm)

B: Eh, and he was French Canadian? (A: What?) Was he French Canadian?

A: He was French as we are. (B: Uh huh) Yeah. (B: Uh huh) [unclear] (B: Uh huh) Henri [LeBeau] (B: Uh huh)

B: And what was his job? (A: Ahh?) What was his job? What did he do?

A: Oh after the war I don't know. I can't tell you what, I know he's working. I think it was the cot-, the cotton. The diaper. Shop of the diaper. (B: Um hm, um hm) Yeah. (B: Very good) [unclear] (B: Uh huh)

B: So you stayed at Providence Hospital for twenty years. (A: Twenty years) And then you, then you retired?

A: I retired at sixty-six. (B: sixty-six) I retire. (B: Uh huh; uh huh)

B: And, and you lived on, [both talk] still on Park Street?

A: On Park Street. 173 Park. (B: Um hm) I was [unclear] about uh coming here because there was, (B: Um hm) the block was full of uh Negro and (B: Um hm) Puerto Rican. We got scared. (B: Um hm) Not me. I didn't got scared because I was used to what my son, son and daughter they didn't want me to live there because they was scared for me. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: So they wanted you to move into here. (A: Yeah) [Boudry-Boucher]. (A: Yeah)

A: They come, they come in and find the place and uh, I think [tape unclear] to find the place. (B: Um hm, very good)

B: Let's go, let's go back now then, now we've got that overview and look at um what you see have been some of the changes in the community here. Now you were here in this area in 1920, so you've lived here a long time and you've seen lots of changes. What, what do you see has changed the most? For you? (A: In ah [unclear]) In this [both talk] neighborhood. In the neighborhood. What was it like to, to for example go shopping in 1924, 25 in this neighborhood? What would you do? Where would you go?

A: Oh ah for the store was on the, Mr. Paris was right on the corner.

B: Mr. Paris? (A: Yeah) And what was that?

A: Henry Paris Grocery Store. (B: Uh huh) And uh the other one [unclear] on Hamilton Street. Where Mr. Moreau and he was, he was very good. (B: Um hm) And, it's funny, a year or two bef-, after he died, the same thing of my husband. (B: Huh)

B: A year or two later, huh? (A: Yeah) Appendicitis. (A: Appendicitis) Burst, burst. (A: Yeah) Yeah, yeah.

A: My husband they said he burst when, when they opened it. When they [unclear] [both talk] (B: Uh huh) He burst there. But the poison was there and uh [unclear] (B: Uh huh) Uh we were waiting for the doctor. The doctor come and eh he said "I come back." [My hu-], he come back and my husband ask him, he said "I'll [die] appendicitis, I got, should I go to the hospital?" "Oh," he said, "if you want to go to the hospital, we will." And when we came into the hospital they said [unclear] open it right away and it's too late. (B: Hmm)

B: So he should have gone sooner?

A: [both talk] The doctor. I [blame] the doctor. (B: Yeah) I never see the doctor who [pay] after that.

B: And was he your, he wasn't the doctor you did housework for? He wasn't, this wasn't the doctor that you did housework for? (A: He didn't ask for [unclear]) No, no, no. This wa-, this doctor that saw your husband. That's not the same doctor as you did housework for? (A: Oh, over there; no) No. Different doctor.

A: No, oh no. Because it was not surgery. (B: I see, I see)

B: So this was the local (A: Yeah) doctor (A: Yeah) that you would go to [unclear]

A: The one we got for the baby.

B: The baby. I see. (A: Yeah) So he really didn't take good care of your husband (A: No, no) is what you're saying. Yeah, yeah. It was too late. So anyway, you would shop at Mr. Moreau's (A: Yeah) and at Henri Paris. (A: Paris) P-A-R-I-S? (A: [spells to herself in French] Yeah)

Uh huh. And, and this would be groceries? (A: Grocery store) Okay. What about for meats? Where would you get meats?

A: Meat. Moreau.

B: Moreau. [both talk] (A: Mr. Moreau, yeah) You get your meats from Moreau. (A: Yeah) And so it was Mr. Moreau who (A: Yeah) knowing your situation helped you (A: Yeah, yeah) by giving you bits of meat and [unclear]

A: Yeah. [both talk] Was a good friend of my husband. (B: Uh huh, uh huh)

B: Ah, were there any other shops that you remember at that time?

A: I didn't go out that much. I stay home.

B: With the children?

A: I always stay home. When we go out we go on my brother and my sister-in-law and uh [unclear] (B: Because [unclear]) Always in French we [talk]. (B: And you talk in French) I learn a little bit my English because the children, when the children go to school and I [help them].

B: So for you the main thing during that time to go out socializing was to visit relatives. (A: Yeah) And you [unclear]

A: I would go the [Quake] Club. We have the [Quake] Club.

B: How do you spell that, Quick, Quick Club? (A: [Quake] Club) [Quake] Club.

A: [Quake] Club. There we got, we were going there. For the wedding we go in there. And [unclear] my husband was, I like to, we go there. (B: Um hm) Which was a social club, you know, we [both talk]

B: Would you have a few drinks?

A: [laughs] I didn't drink, but some drink.

B: They, they served drinks there?

A: Yeah, yeah. And uh, just beer, I think. (B: Uh huh) Yeah.

B: Was it a big room? Big room? (A: Oh yeah; was a big room) Wooden tables, [both talk] little tables in? (A: Yeah) And they had a bar? [both talk] (A: Yeah, they got a bar) And a st-, did they have a st-, and a stage? Did they have a stage? (A: Yeah, yeah) So would they have music?

A: And we got bench around. (B: Benches) And they got music and we dance.

B: And you danced. And, and was this a special night you would go? Did you go a particular night? Friday night, Saturday or (A: Ohh) any special night?

A: It wasn't a special night I don't think. I don't think it was every week. (B: Um hm) You know. (B: Um hm)

B: But the, the club was open every week. (A: Yeah, yeah) You didn't go every week. (A: No, no) Uh huh. When you sang and you danced, which songs did you sing? Do you

remember? Were they all in French?

A: I know this was French. (B: They were in French) And the violin and we dance.

B: The violin. (A: Yeah) They played the violin and you danced. (A: Yeah) What kind of dances did you do?

A: Square dance. (B: square dances) Square dance. (B: Ah hah)

B: So this was from, from Canada.

A: Oh yeah, we know from Canada. [both talk]

B: So these are country dances from Canada?

A: Yeah. And was the same thing. Was a, was a French club. (B: Ah huh) Most. (B: Ah huh)

B: Were there any other cl-, kinds of clubs or organizations that you remember that helped you? (A: [No]) Did you belong to S-, St. Jean Baptiste? (A: No) No. (A: Not yet) No. Ahh, [Circle Russia Mot] (A: No) No. Um hm.

A: The firemen helped me. I remember the firemen. They bring me some clothes. After my husband died. (B: Um hm; um hm)

B: Did things improve for you during the war? Did things, did, after the Depression and you got through that period, did [unclear]

A: After the, after the k-, the kid, no it was before the kid when we found to work. We find a bit money and ah buy ah buy the furniture, because before we got useful furniture.

B: You didn't have any furniture before?

A: We got old furniture. (B: Old furniture) Old furniture. Somebody gave some and uh [unclear] (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: So when your sons went to war, went, went to fight in the war, y-you they sent you money.

A: [both talk] They send me some money. They send some money.

B: Yeah, and that helped. And then you got the job in the hospital. (A: Yeah) Yeah. So, so y-you started [unclear]

A: At uh, at uh, I went to work after they, after they come back there. (B: Um hm) After they come back.

B: After they came back you went to the hospital. Uh huh. Do you remember how much you were earning in the hospital then?

A: Thirteen, thirteen dollar a week.

B: Thirteen dollars a week. And what, what hours did you put in?

A: [pause: 5 sec.] I know, what early in the morning. (B: Um hm) And I think we work until two o'clock.

B: In the afternoon. Uh huh. Every, five days a week? (A: Yeah) Huh. Di-did you work at weekends?

A: I think so, well that [both talk] for sure I don't remember. (B: Uh huh, uh huh; good)

B: I would say it was a very hard time for you r-raising six children on your own during the Depression and [both talk] during the war.

A: [unclear] that time.

B: I was going to say [unclear]

A: God, God, God was very good for me. (B: Uh huh, uh huh)

B: You must have made some sacrifices for yourself though, for your children. Did you, do you remember any, any particular hardships for you, in terms, y-y-, like your own clothes for example. You made, you must have, did you make [unclear]

A: Yeah, I made lots of people gave me some clothes and (B: Yeah) I sew but, but the [done fix I, I done fix] and fix it myself. (B: Um hm) So the children the same, they give some clothes but I fix it they fit them. (B: Uh huh, uh huh) Oh, the, [they visit] a lady who was coming (B: Um hm) at my house who was very surprise. We got the, the [bau-, the baum] they call on, on [unclear] say we the clothes was very cheap. And I buy two piece of clothes the, one blue and make my daughter a skirt with the thing and uh cape. And was very, very good, very good price. I said to myself "I [know] it's very good." (B: Uh ha-huh) And a coat, brown coat for my o-other daughter. [This], the thing they were new for them. [laughs] (B: Uh huh, right; they didn't know) The rest, the rest was old, old was, old thing. This was new.

B: So you took the old mater-, used material, (A: Yeah) fabric (A: Yeah) and made them into new clothes. (A: Yeah) So it was new for them.

A: Oh this, this, yeah, this was the very new. The piece was [cloth] like from the brown. (B: Um hm) And I made. (B: Um hm)

B: How did you learn to sew in the first place?

A: I sew, to, (B: in Canada) to do some apron. (B: Um hm) When my daughter, my sister was married I make her a [unclear] wedding dress.

B: But who taught you, to do that?

A: I don't know. We were looking at the catalog. The book, there. And we take the pattern and we make it. (B: Hm) I said we don't dare if we don't got no pattern, we don't dare to [unclear] There we were [unclear] look in the paper and uh, and we make. I make my wedding dress. (B: Um hm, hm)

B: Did your mother sew then? Did your mother sew?

A: Yeah, my mother sew.

B: So maybe she taught you.

A: Yes [unclear].

B: When you were very [unclear]

A: Because I remember we [unclear] many apron. (B: you made an apron) And after we, we look in the pa-, the catalog and we make [that]. (B: Um hm, um hm) Faster, faster, don't do no, now I don't dare cut (B: Um hm) something without no pattern. [interviewer chuckles] (B: Yeah)

B: What about in cooking? You learned to coo-, your mother taught you to cook first off?

A: Yes, because we learn eh there because we don't, I never got time [too hard] to cook. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: How, if you can think back to th-, to those times you know during the thirties after your f-, husband had died, what would a typical day be like for you? (A: The what?) What would a day be? A typical day. What time would you get up? [both talking]

A: I, I know, I didn't know for a long time you know, I didn't know what [there] was, was going on or [unclear]. (B: Yeah, yeah) I don't reme-, I didn't remember. (B: Yeah)

B: [both talking] Then you recovered. Then it took a wh-, took you a while.

A: I remember when we sit down at the table the kids start to, to talk about their father. My oldest son was just eight years old, but he sol-, he told them "Don't talk to Papa at the table. You see, my mother start to cry again, she can't eat." (B: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah) Was just years old but he understand. (B: Yeah, yeah)

B: Once you got over that, once you got over that terrible experience, well maybe you never

did but, when you had to, when you realized that you had to really pull the family together and get on and get going, that's when you started to work at the convent, right? (A: Yeah) If you could think back to those days, what was it like, a typical day? Would you get up and get the children ready for school? How would that go?

A: Yes. It's becau-, eh, I just went up to the, the kids go to school. (B: Um hm) I fix it go to school, and after [unclear]

B: So you would fi-, you would fix their beak-, breakfast? What time would you get up?

A: Oh, yeah. Oh I don't remember. The school was [unclear] eight o'clock. [I come] w-we must get up about six o'clock. (B: Um hm, hm)

B: And then you would get their breakfast?

A: Their breakfast. And they ready to school. (B: Um hm) [We] wash and comb them and dress up.

B: Did they have uniforms?

A: Yeah.[unclear] the girl have uniform.

B: The girl did. (A: uniform) What color were they?

A: Uh black with uh white color, [steff] color and y-, l-, a red [bow]. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: Did you walk them to school or did you [unclear]

A: No, because I live on Park Street and the school was right there.

B: So they just walked.

A: Just look out the window and they [unclear] (B: Uh huh, uh huh)

B: And the-, and then what would happen? Would you clean up the dishes or [unclear]

A: Yes, I wash up the dishes, and I play with the cat! [both laugh] We get the little kitten, he was, after the kids was gone he want to play. Peek-a-boo. (B: Uh huh) He was running and go hide and [interviewer laughs] when I find him I run and g-go hide and he come in and find me. [interviewer laughs] (B: Yeah)

B: And then you would get ready to go to work? (A: Yeah) [pause: 5 sec.] And then, and, and wh-when you went to the convent what did you do? Wha-wha [unclear]

A: Washing. Do the washing. All the floor. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: And how long did y- [makes guttural noise] did you work at that during the day?

A: Oh I can't remember. I went how long.

B: All day?

A: I think the washing was done [both talk] (B: Until it was done) Yeah.

B: So you would be home in time to [unclear]

A: [I put those kids, for the, the kid come back]. (B: Then there would be [unclear]) They know and they, they let me know, [that we go].

B: They let you go (A: for the kids) before the kids came home. (A: Yeah) Then you would get dinner ready? (A: Oh yeah) Uh huh. Did your children help you?

A: Oh yeah. They help, they help at me. (B: Uh huh, uh huh) And they, they all got their chore and eh they help me. (B: Yeah) They were good kid. (B: Uh huh)

B: Did you assign them a, did you give them the chore? Did y-, did they all have a special chore?

A: I don't know [she did it] all the time but (B: Mmm) when they got something to do, they do it. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: Then when they were in bed, what did you do during the evening? Listen to the radio?

A: Read, read probably much.

B: What, what kinds of things, magazines or--

A: Yeah, magazine or sometimes the paper. (B: Uh huh)

B: Did you listen to the radio?

A: I don't think we got, we got any at that time. [laughing] (B: Uh huh, uh huh, uh huh) And that's when you'd do the sewing? (A: Yeah)

B: And you would take in sewing? (A: oh yeah) Uh huh. So you had a busy day!

A: Oh yeah. [interviewer laughs] Oh yeah. Keep busy all the time. (B: Uh huh) I still I can do nothing. (B: Um hm) I have to do something. I do a little bit crochet. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: Ah, were there any ehh neighborhood characters that you remember? Particular people in the neighborhood. During that time.

A: I know my, my neighbor. I, I [pass] lots of neighbor in my block because I stay there fifty-five year and the, the [other sons] I they move all the time. I got Mr. [Charpin], I got the [Anger], I got the, oh, lots of people they move. [DeCoeur] and [unclear] (B: Um hm)

B: When did you get, when did you get a chance to talk with them? [laughs] (A: To talk?) When, when did you get time to talk with them?

A: Oh! On the piazza. [laughs] Most of [unclear] in the piazza.

B: In the piazza. (A: Yeah) What's the piazza? (A: Ah, the) Oh, over the club. The piazza was the (A: Yeah) club? (A: The what?) The club, the club. The piazza club?

A: The piazza there. We were neighbor we get piazza. (B: Ohh! Ohh!) After the block. (B: Oh, okay) Yeah. (B: Yeah, yeah, I see) [chuckles]

B: Ah-huh. So you'd go out and you'd have a chat [unclear]

A: Yeah. Go outside we got, talk a little bit. (B: Uh huh) Yeah. (B: Uh huh)

B: And maybe y-, did you talk when you were hanging up your washing?

A: Oh yeah. [interviewer laughs softly] Yes, [you wash] the washing outside and the, there we were talking.

B: Were there specific days when you did the washing? Do you remember?

A: Well the most on Monday.

B: Did everybody do their washing on Monday?

A: Almost. (B: Uh huh) Yeah. Just one family they [were always] do it on Sunday. (B: Uh ha ha)

B: Oh and uh, and that was a no-no, huh? (A: Yeah) [laughs]

A: [chuckling] Yeah. I didn't like that. [interviewer laughs]

B: So then on Tuesday you did your ironing! (A: Yeah) Yeah? Uh huh. So you did s-specific things on specific days. (A: Oh, yeah) Uh huh. What'd you do on Wednesday?

A: [chuckles] [Was, was like maybe like that]. [both laugh]

B: After the war, you were still at the hospital. You were (A: Yeah, I) at Providence (A: Yeah) Hospital then. Ahh, your children were married, (A: Yeah) most of them. Now you said they a-, your girls got married all within a short period of time. All in one year? (A: Yeah) Your daughters?

A: Year and two month.

B: A year and two months. They all got married.

A: The five they left. (B: Uh huh) Uh four married and the other one left for the convent.

B: All in one year. (A: Yeah) That was a bit of a shock for you. (A: Yeah, yeah) How did you cope with that?

A: Mm. I have to. We have to. (B: Um hm, um hm) Unless uh, I, one year I don't remember, one year. My second daughter, they, they burn, their house burn. (B: Uh huh) At two o'clock in the morning. They were living in Wendell Depot. I said "Where you c-, what you coming at this time?" But I smell the smoke (B: Um hm) right away. He said, he said we [passa] all everything burn except just a little basket they get. Near the car they bring that. (B: Hm) This was a shock. (B: Um hmmm!) And there was [now work]. I wash uh clothes because smell so [what] smoke. She pass out, pass out on my [house]. I said you must be in family and she was. (B: Hm, huh, she was) I keep her about couple year at my house.

B: You did. She wasn't married? (A: She was married) Ah-hah! (A: She was married, sh [unclear]) And so her husband and the baby?

A: Her hu-, she got three, two children. [unclear] her oldest son was about five years old and he was coughing, coughing, coughing. Like when they light the light to see, they see the, the house was house full of smoke. (B: Hm) There, there was a little [stay] and they put the [hou the water] was worse. (B: Huh) Go, the [both talk] (B: [unclear] smoke) But they just got thanked got out. Take the two kids and got out. (B: Hm)

B: When, when was this?

A: Ohh, [pause 5 sec.] must be in fifty. (B: Um hm)

B: What were some of the um French Canadian traditions that you brought down with you that you passed on to your children? Do you, do you know? What kinds of um, what kinds of things did you think it was important that your children had, in terms of your French Canadian background?

A: The s-, the teacher, the sister teach half French and half, half uh (B: Um hm) English at the school.

B: So it was important for you that they learn French? (A: Yeah, [they all]) Um hm, um hm, um hm.

A: French and uh the English, too. (B: Um hm, um hm, and English)

B: Did you want your children, what did you want for your children? What did you want for

them to become? That was different from your life.

A: [pause: 5 sec.] To be good. (B: Um hm) To be [unclear] [Work]. And [pause: 5 sec.] with the religion. (B: Um hm) And they were, were already with the priest in the morning. The al-, the boy was al-altar boy. (B: Um hm) And we go to mass every morning. (B: Um hm)

B: And you wanted, is that, is that a tradition with French Canadian Catholics? They go to mass every morning?

A: Ohh, I don't think so but uh, (B: For you it was) for me is the only place I have really for [bad] to go through what I was going. (B: Um hm) Because everything going to die uh so young, uh?

B: How old was your husband when he died then?

A: He was thirty-three. (B: Thirty-three) And me was just twenty-eight. (B: Twenty-eight; um hm; um hm)

B: So the Church has been important for you all your life in terms of being a source of comfort. (A: Yeah) A place where you could go. (A: Oh yeah) Um hm.

A: And they were very good, they all be around me. One in Willamancet was [big three]. He had one in Fayview. He had one in Springfield. And he had one [unclear] Weldon Depot. This is near Orange. This the [farest]. And the nun, when the nun was in convent she was very far, she was on the [beach]. [unclear] (B: Um hm) [unclear] (B: Uh huh). Now she's in Montreal. (B: Hm) [unclear]

B: Is she being trained in Montreal or she's there permanently, or what?

A: Yeah. She's, she, she collect the money, she keep the book. (B: Um hm) Bookkeeper for the sisters St. Anne. (B: Um hm, um hm) In Can-, in uh [Norado] she was teaching. Teaching English. (B: Uh huh, uh huh)

B: Did she want to go back to Canada, then? (A: Sh-, sh-, they [unclear]) They sent her.

A: When she was nun they keep her all the time over there. She never come back. Just come back to visit. She always stay in Canada. (B: Hm, um hm)

B: How long is it since you've seen her then? (A: Hah?) How long since you've seen her?

A: She come in for Easter for four day. (B: Uh huh) And uh during the summer she always came for a couple uh, couple week. (B: Um hm, um hm) I guess she come eh, eh, [once a week] for Christmas. (B: Um hm) But when she was at first nun there, she was ten year I didn't see her! (B: Hm)

B: They kee-, kept her away, huh? (A: Yeah) Hm. That was difficult.

A: Was uh, was hard. (B: Um hm) I got the hard, I got the hard time. (B: Um hm, um hm) But God, God was good for me because we got, we went through (B: Um hm) everything. (B: Um hm)

B: The Church has helped you through. Were there any particular friends that you had that helped you through? Have you had any [unclear]

A: Was, was uh my sister. Oh my sister was living on the, the other block. And she was [unclear] But when my husband died she was at the hospital too. She was really sick, too. (B: Hm) They, they operate on her for the gall bladder. (B: Hm) And they couldn't take out the stone because she got too [unclear] to pa-, pass. (B: Um hm) [interviewer sighs in sympathy] She was very, very sick. But she, she, she li-, she stay over here. She live about four year and after she went back to Canada. (B: Hm; hm) My other sister, too, they went all back to Canada. (B: They did?) Yeah.

B: Why did they go back?

A: On their farm. (B: They went back on the farm) Yeah.

B: Why didn't you go back?

A: My husband die, I, [both talk] I couldn't go back. [laughing derisively] No, my husband says he left the farm go away and he said we never go back. (B: Um hm)

B: Did you want to go back ever?

A: I don't know. At that time we was liking to go back, (B: Um hm) but he knew what was [unclear] to pay for the farm and work and eat. Was just too many kids. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: Are your sisters still living?

A: I still got one. The youngest [this man], and one brother that's all. We three, we still three. (B: Um hm) And we were thirteen children. (B: Hm; hm) The, the, my son, my brother's older than me, and me and the you-, the sister younger than me. [Well] I got two more brothers they die. The youngest, two die, he die. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: [both talking] What sort of things do you, you think have changed in the neighborhood over the years you've lived here?

A: Was nice and clean everything. The sidewalk was clean, the block was all clean and everywhere. Now it's all dirty. [chuckling] Everything's [out]. (B: Um hm)

B: Did they have cleaners who came round?

A: They were coming with the [lead] barrel and the brush and the brush and they were

cleaning the street all the time. (B: Hm, hm) Lots people from Canada they come in and they, they were thinking was very nice, and [all y-] all clean, everything was clean. (B: Um hm) And the Canada, they all [the sale], they all outside and [here we] all inside. They didn't, they said "Look, factory all over." [laughs] (B: Yeah)

B: So that was a big adjustment. From living your life outside in the open air to having to be in a building (A: Yeah) all the time. (A: Yeah)

A: Oh, oh yeah. When uh we were g-going make the, well [garden] in the Springdale? (B: Uh huh) They gave us a piece of land there, and we go make uh garden in there. (B: Um hm) And the kids and me we went with the little wagon. We go every morning, (B: Um hm) pass the day in Springdale. (B: Um hm) We come back at night. (B: Um hm)

B: So every morning you take your little one and you'd go up and you'd work, [both talking] make out the vegetable, was it a vegetable patch, (A: Patch, yeah) or was it flowers? (A: Yeah) Vegetables? (A: Vegetable) So you grew your own vegetables? (A: Yeh, yeh, yeah, yeah) When was this?

A: It was after my husband died. (B: Right, right) Yeah.

B: Was it, was it, a-after your husband died. Now was it before the war? (A: Oh yeah) [both talking] So it was after your husband died and before the war? (A: Yeah, yeah) Um hm, um hm.

A: My husband die young, mm. Twenty-nine. In fact I was being in thirty-one, thirty-two. (B: Um hm, um hm) [Had the play to stay] with the kids. We were thirty-six kid in the, in the yard. (B: Uh huh) I got place to we stayed there with the other one. We goes to Springdale. The kids have lots of place to play and I make my garden.

B: Did you eat the vegetables you made? (A: Oh yes, oh yeah) So, so they could play on the land (A: Yeah) while you [unclear]

A: They made those. New potatoes I think. (B: Um hm) Tomatoes. [pause: 5 sec.] Lots of things you can eat. (B: Um hm)

B: Did you make s-, what kind of meals did you cook?

A: Boiled dinner m-most.

B: One dinner.

A: Yeah. Boiled. Beef, potatoes, carrot, turnip, swiss chard.

B: Sweet shop? What's that?

A: It's almost like that le-, uh lettuce but you cook it.

B: Huh. I don't, never heard of it. (A: No) No. Uh uh. And then would you have any, anything for dessert? Would you have a pudding or anything?

A: Oh yeah. My, my kid make the cake. (B: Make a cake; um hm)

B: So you'd have really, breakfast, what would you have for breakfast?

A: I think it just was almost cereal (B: Cereal) for breakfast. (B: Uh huh) Milk and uh cereal.

B: Would you have anything for lunch?

A: No I don't think so. [chuckles] That's when the kid comes [unclear] buttered toast. (B: Buttered toast)

B: So you'd have one, the big meal would be at night. (A: Yeah, oh yeah) Was at night.

A: At noon and at night. (B: At noon or at night) Or at night. [The two of them]. (B: You'd have two big meals) Two big meal. (B: Uh huh, uh huh) [unclear]

B: Huh. And you, so you'd have to cook, you'd have to cook that meal for the lunchtime. (A: Oh yeah) How would you fig-, how did you fit that in? Y-, if you were going down to the veg-, to the vegetable patch, right? (A: Yeah) And you growing, you were taking care of your (A: Oh) vegetables.

A: At, at that time we, we put sa-, make sandwich and uh [unclear] (B: Oh then you'd make a sandwich?) Yeah, yeah. (B: I see) We bring, we bring over there and we eat over there. (B: And then you'd eat at night that) We just come in for, (B: Uh huh) to go to bed. (B: I see) About eight o'clock. (B: Uh huh, uh huh; huh)

B: Were there many other neighbors that you had that had a vegetable patch near you?

A: Yeah. Yeah, there was lots of people, back, we got a big place, they gave it. (B: Who's they?) The s-, must (B: The s-, the) be the state. (B: The state gave you) Must be the state what gave that (B: Um hm) to us. (B: Um hm, um hm) Anybody want to make a garden. (B: Um hm, um hm) Lots of people they don't know how make the garden, but me I was brought up on the farm. I knew made the garden. (B: Um hm, um hm, um hm)

B: And you probably liked that (A: Yeah) being out (A: Yes, I like it) in the open. Yeah, mm.

A: Were in the fresh air and the kid were all right, the kid were all uh outside all day. (B: Um hm, um hm; that's good)

B: When they, they spent all their school [life] at Precious Blood Schools, right? (A: Yeah)

There was two schools, huh? There was the [youn-] or was there one school?

A: It was all the, all in Precious Blood.

B: In the elementary school?

A: Yeah. They want, they got some under the, the, the church. This was for the one of the big of First Communion. Was Sis-Sister Nicola who was there all the time for the, (B: Um hm) for the ch-, the kid who make their First Communion. And the other ch-, the other, [unclear]. Every grade had [til] nine and they after they got the, the high school, two year the high school. (B: Hmm, hmm) Just the two oldest went to the high school. The other one didn't finish at. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: Were there any sisters that you remember in particular?

A: Sister Mary Rose. (B: Mary Rose, Sister Mary Rose) Ahh, hah [I got (B: Uh huh) more than that remember]. There was Sister Nicola was for the children. (B: Uh huh) But Sister Holy Cross [unclear] [pause: 5 sec.] I should know better than that.

B: That's all right. Sister Mary Rose, what do you remember about her? Sister Mary Rose.

A: She was teaching the teaching of my oldest son. (B: Uh huh; was she, what was she teaching?) She was nice! [chuckles] [interviewer laughs gently] (B: She was nice?) Nice sister and got always nice red cheek. [interviewer laughs]

B: What was she teaching him?

A: I think he get it pretty much the year after here. (B: Um hm)

B: What was she teaching him? Was she teaching him religion, or French, or English? Do you remember?

A: I think they were (B: Everything?) teaching everything I think.

B: Everything? Oh, so (A: Yeah) they would have the one (A: Yeah) teacher for [unclear] (A: Yeah) I see, yep. Very good. Which particular pastors do you remember? Which particular pastors? (A: The what?) Pastor.

A: Oh [more] Father Fontaine. (B: He was the one that you remember) But when we came in in here was Father [Crepier]. (B: [Crepier], yeah) And Father [Genereau], [Genideau]. (B: Um hm) We got uh [pause: 5 sec.] Father Fontaine after four, lots of year Father Fontaine stay it must be about fifteen year I think. And we got Father [Moraine]. (B: Um hm) Father [Largoise]. Father [Lavois]. [pause: 5 sec.] Father [Guillemette] was just uh [lived] the father the priest the, was those coming [along]. (B: Um hm) [pause: 5 sec.]

B: Hm. Did the church have any activities that you remember in the neighborhood. Did

they have any festivals that you remember?

A: Ah we, we got uh some uh, some play. (B: Um hm) Play, was uh Mr. [unclear] was [conduct] that (B: Um hm) in the basement. (B: of the church?) Yeah church yeah. (B: Um hm, um hm, hm)

B: Were there mainly little French shops that were up on Main Street here? Were they all French shops? On Main Street? Or different kinds?

A: I don't remember French shop. (B: No?) No. Mr. Paris was a French store. (B: Yeah) Mr. Moreau. But the rest I don't think they were French. (B: Uh huh, uh huh, okay)

B: What were they? Mr. Weinstein [both talk] Yeah Mr. Weinstein was there. (A: Weinstein was there)

A: Ahh, because I buy, I buy some from the [Jew] there.

B: [Naiditz's]. (A: Who?) Was it [Naiditz]? The furniture, Valley Furniture.

A: Valley Furniture was (B: F-further up, right) more out, far. (B: Um hm) I mean they got another one there I bought my stove there but I (B: Um hm) can't remember the name. (B: Mm) [pause: 5 sec.]

B: Did you read La Justice? Did you read La Justice? (A: La Justee?) La Justice. (A: La Justice, yeah, yeah) La Justice. Yes. (A: Yeah) You read that? (A: Yeah, I got that, La Justice) Did it come out every day, or once a week?

A: Ohh. I think once a day. (B: Um hm) If I remember right I [guess]. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: So, so you spoke mo-, mainly French with your neighbors and everything. You read the French newspaper. It was your children that forced you to learn English, is that it?

A: Yeah, yeah, yeah. We begin to go to school and I learn with them. (B: Uh huh) Lots come uh they go altar boy. I, I learn with them the, the (B: ahh, the English) the question and the (B: I see) to answer them. (B: Uh huh, mm, you did very well) The three boy they all, they were all altar boy. (B: Um hm, very good; hm)

B: Well, I want to, I know you're getting tired now, so I want to thank you for sharing [Mrs. Airolti laughs] s-, part of your life with us. (A: For the jigsaw puzzle) For the jigsaw puzzle, you're right, yeah. For the jigsaw puzzle.

[pause in tape]

A: [unclear] when they got the First Communion. (B: The church was full?) The church

was full. They have the people don't, just the parents of the, they make their First Communion because they didn't got no place. Was all full. And the Confirmation was the same thing. (B: Hm; hm) To, we, we got the big place was, was always full. [unclear] the people they close it now.

B: That's, yeah. The, the, then gradually the, the people moved out right? (A: Everybo-, everybody move) Uh huh. So there's a problem now with them closing, they closed the church last year right? Mm. (A: Yeah) Yeah. So what so the people who live, who, who are still parishioners, where do you go now every morning for mass? Where do you go?

A: They come, they send the bus (B: They send the bus) [unclear] ten, ten fifteen they, we got the bus to go to [Perpetual] (B: Um hm, I see; and how many of you--) Once a week.

B: Just once a week. How many of you go?

A: Oh we are about thirteen I think. (B: Um hm, um hm, um hm) [unclear] Some they too old, they can't (B: Um hm) go so far. They were [real], they could go. (B: Yeah, yeah; but uh) And we got one a month. We got the mass here downstairs. (B: Uh huh; who does that?) Father [Collier]. (B: Collier comes down here) Collier. Coming in. (B: Um hm, hm)

B: So the people who went there like yourself [unclear]

A: The, the one they can come over there [but] downstairs they come.

B: Yeah. So that was very, it's been very upsetting to you and the others that they're going to close the church.

[tape is garbled for 5 sec.]

A: [unclear] long time I go to mass every morning. (B: Um hm, um hm, um hm) I was there too when after I stop the war, I go to mass every morning. (B: Um hm, um hm)

B: So it's been part of your life for so long. (A: Yeah) Hmm. What's going to happen to it? Have they decided yet? [speaks more slowly] Have they decided what's going to happen yet? (A: When what?) Have they decided what is going to happen (A: Oh I don't know) to the church (A: I don't know) yet? (A: I don't know what they going to do her) Hm, hm. What would you like to see done to it?

A: If they get, they give them to make something else in there I don't like it. (B: Um hm, um hm) I don't like to, I don't like it to go down. (B: Um hm, um hm; it's sad) If they can do something good it's all right. (B: Um hm, um hm; let's hope so)

[end of tape]